

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221111

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FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KING HASSAN), MO

SUBJECT: BENGELLOUN-DOBELLE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 12

REF: RABAT 5007

1. AS FORESEEN, AMBASSADOR DOBELLE MET WITH AMBASSADOR
BENGELLOUN ON SEPTEMBER 12 TO DISCUSS INITIAL PLANNING
FOR THE KING'S VISIT. AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL AND AFN REPS
ALSO PRESENT.

2. WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES: FOLLOWING WERE DISCUSSED:

A. MEETINGS ON SECOND DAY: DOBELLE REITERATED POSSIBILITY
MENTIONED EARLIER BY AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL THAT THERE COULD
BE A SECOND OFFICIAL MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE
SECOND DAY OF THE STATE VISIT. BENGELLOUN DID NOT MENTION
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MEETINGS WITH CABINET OFFICIALS IN REFTL, BUT DID SAY HE
THOUGHT HASSAN WOULD WANT TO MEET WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL.
IF KING OPTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL LUNCHEON VICE PRESS CLUB
LUNCHEON ON SECOND DAY, DOBELLE SUGGESTED THAT HE RECEIVE
SELECTED GROUP OF COLUMNISTS AT BLAIR HOUSE AT SOME OTHER
TIME DURING THE DAY.

B. EVENING ACTIVITIES: BENGELLOUN ASKED IF CERTAIN AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE KING COULD BE INVITED TO WHITE HOUSE DINNER. DOBELLE SAID IT WOULD BE UNUSUAL; POSSIBLY TWO OR THREE MIGHT BE ACCOMMODATED, BUT HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR KING TO ARRANGE TO INVITE THEM TO DINE WITH HIM ON A LATER OCCASION DURING VISIT--E.G. AT SEA ISLAND. FOR MOROCCAN EVENT ON SECOND DAY, BENGELLOUN FORESAW EITHER DINNER FOR 100-150 AT RESIDENCE OR RECEPTION IN A HOTEL IF THERE WAS A REQUIREMENT FOR A LARGER GUEST LIST.

3. POST-WASHINGTON ITINERARY: DOBELLE ENCOURAGED BENGELLOUN TO ENVISION BROADER SWEEP THAN LATTER'S IDEA OF "BASE CAMP" FOR THE KING WOULD PERMIT. HOWEVER, HE ADVISED AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO COVER CALIFORNIA STOPS, WHICH WOULD MEAN TOO MUCH AIR TIME. ILLUSTRATIVELY, DOBELLE SUGGESTED THAT THE KING CONTEMPLATE GOING TO CHICAGO ON DECEMBER 9 FOR A MAJOR ADDRESS TO BUSINESS LEADERS AT LUNCH TIME, AFTER OFFICIAL ARRIVAL AT DALY SQUARE WITH NEW MAYOR AND A STOP AT NEW MOROCCAN TOURIST OFFICE, THEN CONTINUING TO NEW ORLEANS (IN PREFERENCE TO HOUSTON) ARRIVING AT DINNER TIME FOR EVENTS AND OVERNIGHT. AFTER ACTIVITIES IN NEW ORLEANS ON MORNING OF DECEMBER 10, KING COULD CONTINUE TO ST. SIMON (SEA ISLAND) FOR A WEEKEND REST. VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR TRAVEL IN THIS AREA COULD BE PROGRAMMED FOR DECEMBER 11-12. IT WAS NOTED

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THAT CAPE CANAVERAL AND ORLANDO, FLORIDA ARE ONLY 43 MILES APART, AND COULD BE COVERED IN A SINGLE EXCURSION. KING COULD THEN CONTINUE FROM THERE TO NEW YORK FOR PRIVATE VISIT TO UNITED NATIONS, WHICH BENGELLOUN BELIEVES HE WILL WISH TO MAKE. FYI - DOBELLE INFORMED NEA REPS AFTER MEETING THAT HE BELIEVES HOUSTON HAS BEEN OVERWORKED RECENTLY BY STATE VISITORS, AND WOULD THUS SUGGEST NEW ORLEANS AS AN ALTERNATIVE, WHERE RELATIVELY FEW STATE VISITORS HAVE TRAVELED RECENTLY. END FYI.

4. DOBELLE PRESENTED BENGELLOUN WITH DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS OPTIONS ALONG LINES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, INCORPORATING SUGGESTIONS FROM REFTTEL.

5. WE HAVE ADVISED BENGELLOUN THAT AMBASSADOR ANDERSON WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION BEFORE BENGELLOUN BRIEFS THE KING. BENGELLOUN SAID HE WOULD BE STAYING IN RABAT THROUGH THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 17-18, AND SAW NO PROBLEM. VANCE

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